Amendments to the claims:

1. (original) A method for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in a patient in need of such treatment which comprises intermittently administering an effective amount of a bisphosphonate to the patient, wherein the period between administrations of bisphosphonate is from at least about 2 months up to about 4 months.

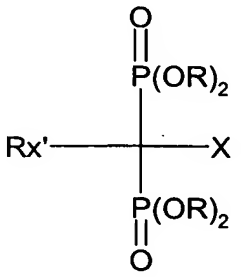
2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A kit for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis comprising oneor more unit doses, each comprising an effective amount of a bisphosphonate, ~~together with instructions~~ according to a dose regimen for intermittent administration at intervals from at least about 2 months up to about 4 months to a patient in need of such treatment.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~use according to claim 2 or kit according to claim 3,~~ in which the bisphosphonate dosing interval is from about once every 80 days to about once every 100 days.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~use according to claim 2 or kit according to claim 3,~~ in which the bisphosphonate dosing interval is about once every 90 days or annual calendar quarter.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~use according to claim 2 or kit according to claim 3,~~ in which the bisphosphonate is a compound of formula I'



I'

wherein

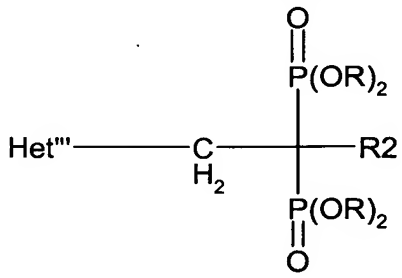
X is hydrogen, hydroxyl, amino, alkanoyl, or an amino group mono- or disubstituted by C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl and

Rx' is a side chain which contains an optionally substituted amino group, or a nitrogen containing heterocycle (including aromatic nitrogen-containing heterocycles),

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof or any hydrate thereof.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~use according to claim 2 or kit according to claim 3,~~ in which the bisphosphonate is a compound of formula IV



IV

wherein

Het''' is an imidazolyl, 2H-1,2,3-, 1H-1,2,4- or 4H-1,2,4-triazolyl, tetrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiazolyl or thiadiazolyl radical which is unsubstituted or C-mono-or di-substituted by lower alkyl, by lower alkoxy, bx phenyl which may in turn be mnon- or disubstituted by lower alkyl, lower alkoxy and/or halogen, by hydroxy, by di-lower alkylamino, by lower alkylthio and/or by halogen and is N-substituted at a substitutable N-atom by lower alkyl or by phenyl-lower alkyl which may in turn be mono- or di-substituted in the phenyl moiety by lower alkyl, lower alkoxy and/or halogen, and

R2 is hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, lower alkylthio or halogen,

lower radicals having up to and including 7 C-atoms,

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (currently amended) A method, ~~use or kit~~ according to claim 7, in which the bisphosphonate is 1-hydroxy-2- (imidazol-1-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof.

9. (currently amended) A method, ~~use or kit~~ according to claim 8 in which 5mg doses of zoledronic acid or salt thereof (dose based on free acid) are administered once every three months.